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Reagan Transition Units To Focus on Four Areas

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 11 — Advisers to President-elect Ronald Reagan have formed several teams to direct the transition of Government authority in foreign policy, military policy and intelligence activities, Republican officials said today.

They said that a plan was approved today to create four teams of experts to deal with management, budget and personnel issues at the State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department and other agencies involved in international matters. The plan was approved by William E. Timmons, the assistant director of the transition effort; Richard V. Allen, Mr. Reagan's top national security aide, and David M. Abshire, the new overall coordinator for the foreign policy transition.

The teams, the aides said, will report to Mr. Abshire, the chairman of the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies, who was chosen last weekend by Mr. Timmons to direct the foreign policy transition effort. Mr. Allen is still described as Mr. Reagan's senior adviser on military matters and foreign policy, and thus there is some confusion about his role and the duties of Mr. Abshire.

In addition to Mr. Abshire, four other persons have been selected to coordinate the Republican transition in other areas: Loren Smith, chief counsel to the Reagan campaign, who will deal with legal affairs and regulatory agencies; Elizabeth Dole, a former Federal Trade Commissioner, human resources; Richard M. Fairbanks, a former member of the domestic council in the Nixon White House, resources and development, and Stanton D. Anderson, a deputy to Mr. Timmons, domestic and international economic affairs.

Announcement of Appointments

The selection of the five transition coordinators was expected to be announced by Edwin Meese III, the director of the transition effort, at a news conference tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, the office of Vice President-elect George Bush announced today that Adm. Daniel J. Murphy, retired, had been appointed to serve as Mr. Bush's chief of staff beginning Jan. 20. Mr. Murphy is an experienced intelligence official who is currently Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

Mr. Abshire said that the newly formed teams on foreign policy, intelligence and military policy would concentrate in coming weeks "on immediate problems, such as budget and personnel." He said that Mr. Allen would continue to work on formulating "a long-term national security strategy."

Republican aides said that Robert G. Neumann, a former Ambassador to Morocco and Afghanistan, would lead the State Department transition team.

Aides said that William R. Van Cleave, a former Pentagon official, would direct the Defense Department transition. He has been a strong critic of the treaty to limit strategic arms and advocates large increases in military spending.

Frank Shakespeare, a former director of the United States Information Agency, had been asked to direct the transition in a number of smaller agencies involved in foreign matters, including the International Communications Agency and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the aides said.

They said that Laurence Silberman, a former Deputy Attorney General and Ambassador to Yugoslavia, had been selected to coordinate the transition in the Central Intelligence Agency, but it was not known whether he would accept. They said that John F. Lehman, a former deputy director of the arms control agency, had also been chosen to serve as Mr. Abshire's deputy in the overall foreign policy transition.

Mr. Abshire's appointment last weekend came as a surprise to some Republican aides, who had assumed that Mr. Allen would supervise the foreign policy transition. Mr. Allen served as Mr. Reagan's top foreign policy adviser throughout the campaign but was forced to step down before the election when a newspaper article said that he had sought to make private gains from his connections with the Nixon White House.

Reagan Finds No Wrongdoing

Mr. Reagan said at a news conference last week that his aides had found no evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of Mr. Allen. Aides close to Mr. Allen said today that he continued to have access to Mr. Reagan and was still the likely choice to become the President-elect's national security adviser in the White House.

Republican aides also said that Mr. Allen, as one of three senior advisers in the transition effort, would have a strong voice in personnel and budget decisions bearing on military matters and foreign policy.

At the same time, Republican aides acknowledged that Mr. Abshire's appointment had reinforced speculation that the foreign policy transition would be marked by a contest between Mr. Allen and people associated with Henry A. Kissinger, the former Secretary of State. Mr. Abshire worked for Mr. Kissinger as an Assistant Secretary of State and was instrumental in 1977 in bringing Mr. Kissinger to the Georgetown center where he now has an office.

"The right-wingers have gone to their battle stations with the Abshire appointment because they think that Henry Kissinger is trying to get Allen out of the way," one Republican transition aide said.

Mr. Allen was not available for comment, but Mr. Abshire said in an interview that there was a clear division of labor between Mr. Allen and himself. "We will be dealing with the near-term problems of the transition," he said, "while the Allen operation will look at long-term strategies."

"Our effort is not designed to supplant the functions of Dick Allen," Mr. Abshire added.